

This Week in Congress

July 12, 2010

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." This week's headlines are:

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Arizona Should be Applauded for Enforcing Laws – Not Sued

This week, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the State of Arizona to block implementation of its new immigration law scheduled to go into effect at the end of July. The State of Arizona should be applauded for trying to enforce our laws—not sued. Suing the State of Arizona will do nothing to stop illegal immigration. Instead of spending money on a lawsuit, the Obama Administration should use those resources to secure the border. The federal government's failure to secure the border has left states, like Arizona, with no choice but to address this problem on their own.

The first priority of any immigration reform must be to secure our borders. I am a sponsor of the leading border security bill in Congress, H.R. 3308, the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement, or SAVE, Act. This legislation will strengthen border security by hiring additional Border Patrol agents and making use of technology to monitor and protect our national boundaries.

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New Legislation Will Protect the Second Amendment Rights of Service Members

I introduced legislation last week to protect the Second Amendment rights of service members and civilians working for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). Recently, some U.S. military installations began moving forward with plans to require the registration of privately owned firearms kept off-base, and are working to prohibit service members from carrying firearms for protection off-base, even if they possess firearm-carrying permits. These additional gun control measures will wrongly penalize our service members. My legislation, the Service Member Second Amendment Protection Act, will ensure Second Amendment rights are not violated by prohibiting the DOD from requiring registration of, or limiting the use of, privately owned firearms beyond state and federal law. This legislation has the support of the National Rifle Association.

[Click here](#)

to learn more about this legislation.

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Visiting with Members of the Wichita Agri-Business Council

On Thursday, I spoke with members of the Wichita Agri-Business Council. The Council began in 2005 and has a membership of over 80 businesses, associations and individual members. It offers a venue for members to collaborate on common goals that will help define the future of agriculture in the Wichita region.

During my visit, I discussed with the Council my efforts to make certain that people in our nation's capitol understand the importance of production agriculture. I also talked about my efforts to help open additional markets for Kansas agricultural goods. This is especially important given that 40 percent of Kansas agricultural commodities are sold overseas. I also shared my concern about pending Environmental Protection Agency regulations that, if finalized, will increase the production costs of Kansas agricultural producers and manufacturers and reduce their competitiveness in the global market. [Click here](#) to view a photo of the visit.



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Presenting Congressional Remarks at Milken Center and Fort Scott

Last week, I shared the story of a group of students from Southeast Kansas and their teacher, Norman Conard, who helped uncover a heroic story that was nearly lost to history. The students researched the life of a brave Polish woman named Irena Sendler, who saved 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust. Following their discovery and research, the students wrote a play about Irena's courageous efforts called Life in a Jar. Their research and play helped draw attention to her inspirational story, which has been featured in more than a thousand press accounts since its discovery in 1999. Last week on the House floor, I recognized the students and Mr. Conard for sharing this story with the world.

This week, I joined Mr. Conard at the Milken Center in Fort Scott to present a framed copy of their story which I shared with the House of Representatives. Mr. Conard now serves as the Executive Director of the Lowell Milken Center, which works with schools around the world to teach the values of respect and understanding by highlighting the lives of unsung heroes who promoted these values. Now entering its third year, the Lowell Milken Center has reached over 110,000 students and over 2,000 schools in all fifty states, with involvement growing world-wide. [Click here](#) to view a photo of my presentation to Mr. Conard. [Click here](#) to view my remarks.



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